

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #85A-10 Building Date: ca. 1910

Building Name: William B. Early House

Location: 13904 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The William B. Early House is a two-and-one-half-story frame Victorian house which fronts on the Popes Creek line of the conrail railroad in the village of Brandywine. Its principal facade is to the east, but it is accessible from the rear, by an unpaved lane from Cherry Tree Crossing Road. The house is made up of a gable-roofed main block with tower and projecting bays, and two gable-roofed wings extending west. The main east facade is three bays wide, with entrance in the central bay through a door with three-pane transom and three-pane sidelights. The first and third bays are filled with two-story semi-hexagonal projecting bays. Above the central door at third level is a small decorative cross-gable, highlighted by a four-section lunette window. Across the main east facade is a highly decorative one-story porch, with turned posts, ornamental jigsaw brackets, a railing of turned balusters, and an upper eave-course of turned spindles. The porch turns and extends west across the three-bay south facade to a two-story semi-hexagonal projecting tower which constitutes the first bay. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash with plain board surrounds and no shutters. The west facade is composed of the side-by-side gable ends of the two gable-roofed wings; there is a one-story rear porch with plain posts, jigsaw brackets and an eave course of spindles. The entire house is sheathed with light green vinyl siding. Foundations are brick, parged in some places with concrete; the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle.

Significance:

The William Berry Early house is a handsome example of late Victorian domestic architecture with Queen Anne decorative elements. It is one of a group of dwellings constructed in the first decade of this century in the railroad-junction of Brandywine. William Berry Early was a grandson of William H. Early, a farmer and merchant who, by the time of his death in 1890, owned 3,000 acres including most of the land which had been platted into lots in the village of Brandywine. His real estate was divided after his death among his heirs, with approximately equivalent thirds going to his three children. To his son Charles went a 4.4 acre block of land which lay along the west side of the railroad tracks, and which was platted into 29 lots. In 1896 Charles Early sold to his son, William Berry Early, four adjoining lots on which he built a home. Around 1910, influenced by the construction of his cousin's elegant Victorian house on the property to the west, William Berry Early rebuilt his small home in the same, though less exuberant, style. William Berry Early died in 1919; today his house stands as a prominent element in a complex of late Victorian dwellings, and is a handsome example of its type.

Acreage: 1.1478 acres

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William Berry Early House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 13904 Cherry Tree Crossing Road ___ not for publication

city, town Brandywine ___ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Barbara McCorkel

street & number 13904 Cherry Tree Crossing Road telephone no.:

city, town Brandywine state and zip code Md. 20613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4430

street & number Main Street folio 595

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state ☒ county ___ localdepository for survey records History Division MNCPPC
Riverdale

city, town state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. PG 85A-10

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William B. Early House is a two-and-one-half-story frame Victorian house which fronts on the Popes Creek line of the railroad as it runs through the village of Brandywine. Although its principal facade is oriented eastward toward the railroad, it is accessible from the rear, by an unpaved lane running east from Cherry Tree Crossing Road, and is located on a large wooded yard. The house is made up of a gable-roofed main block with tower and projecting bays, and two gable-roofed wings extending west.

The main east facade is three bays wide, with entrance in the central bay through a door with three-pane transom and three-pane sidelights. The first and third bays are filled with semi-hexagonal three-window projecting bays. Each is two stories high and surmounted by a pyramidal roof. Above the central door at third level is a small decorative cross-gable, high-lighted by a four-section lunette window. There are similar lunettes in the north and south gable ends of the house, within the boxed returned cornices. Two corbelled brick chimneys (painted white) rise from the ridge, one on each side of the small central cross gable. Across the main east facade is a highly decorative one-story porch, with turned posts, ornamental jigsawn brackets, a railing of turned balusters, and an upper eave-course of turned spindles. The porch turns and extends west across the three-bay south facade to a three-window, semi-hexagonal projecting tower which constitutes the first bay. This tower is two stories high and has a steeply sloped pyramidal roof. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash with plain board surrounds and no shutters. Windows in the projecting bays and tower are slightly narrower, 1/1 double hung sash.

The rear west facade is composed of the side-by-side gable ends of the two gable-roofed wings. The northmost is two bays wide, with rear entrance in the first bay. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge at this west gable end. The two bays of this northmost ell (as well as the one-bay hyphen which connects it to the southerly ell) are sheltered by a one-story porch. This rear porch has plain posts and no railing, but it has jigsawn brackets and an eave course of spindles like those of the main porch.

There is an exterior stove chimney at the west gable end of the one-bay southerly ell.

Attached to the north gable end of the main block, but offset westward to overlap the north ell, is a one-bay addition. It is two stories high and has a hip roof.

The entire house is sheathed with light green vinyl siding. Foundations are brick, parged in some places with concrete; the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG-85A-10

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates ca. 1910 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William Berry Early house is a handsome example of late Victorian domestic architecture with Queen Anne decorative elements. It is one of a group of dwellings constructed in the first decade of this century in the railroad-junction village of Brandywine. Although it is subdued in comparison to its exuberant cousin, the William W. Early house (cf. P.G. #85A-9), it is a good example of its type.

William Berry Early was a grandson of William H. Early, a farmer and merchant who had established himself in the Brandywine area before the Civil War, and who profited by the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1871. By the time of his death in 1890, William H. Early owned 3,000 acres including most of the land which had been platted into the lots of the village of Brandywine.¹ His real estate was divided after his death among his heirs, with approximately equivalent thirds going to his son Charles, his daughter Margaret, and the children of his deceased son James. To his son Charles went a 4.4 acre block of land (Block F) which lay along the west side of the railroad tracks, and which was platted into 29 lots.² In 1896 Charles Early sold to his son, William Berry Early, four adjoining lots (#9, 10, 21 and 22) of Block F, and here in that same year William Berry Early built a modest home.³ He married in 1899 and, like many other members of his family, worked for the railroad. Around 1910, influenced by the construction of his cousin's elegant Victorian house on the property directly to the west, (cf. P.G. #85A-9), William Berry Early rebuilt and enlarged his small home in the same, though less exuberant, style. At the same time, his sister and brother built similar but somewhat more modest homes on the more northerly lots of Block F which they have received from their father.⁴ This section of Brandywine west of the railroad tracks thus became a closely related complex of late Victorian residences of Early family members.

William Berry Early died in 1919, and his widow remained there, known to the community as the local music teacher, for nearly forty years. Today, the William Berry house stands as a prominent element in a complex of late Victorian dwellings, and is a handsome example of its type.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. 85A-10

Cf. Chain of Title

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.1478 Ac. TM 145 P. 207Quadrangle name Brandywine Section D

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commission date July 1985street & number c/o Co. Planning MNCPPC telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

Notes

1 Prince George's County Census; tax assessments for Brandywine Election District; G. M. Hopkins Atlas of ...Prince George's County, 1878; Prince George's County Equity #1904.

2 Prince George's County Equity #1904.

3 Prince George's County Deed JWB #37:654; Prince George's County Tax Assessments.

4 Prince George's County Census; conversation with Early family member, July 1985.

Chain of Title

William Berry Early House P.G. #85A-10

#4430:595
29 Oct 1974
Deed

William McCorkel to Barbara McCorkel, 1.15 acres in Brandywine which grantor acquired by #2742:85.

#2742:85
10 Sept 1962
Deed

George C. Layne to William and Barbara McCorkel; Lots 9-12 and 21-24 in Block F of Brandywine City as per plat in Equity #1904, which Layne acquired by #2617:32.

#2617:32
4 Nov 1961
Deed

Joseph A. Duley to George C. Layne, Lots 6-12 and 21-24 in Block F of Brandywine City, which Duley acquired by #2203:129.

#2203:129
14 Apr 1958
Deed

Angela D. Early and Josephine Early Montgomery to Joseph A. Duley; Lots 6-12 and 21-24 in Block F of Brandywine City, which grantors acquired by #1974:441.

#1974:441
5 Apr 1956
Deed

Susanna Hall to Angela D. Early and Josephine Early Montgomery; Lots 6-12 and 21-24 in Block F of Brandywine City, as described in deed of even date.

#1974:438
5 Apr 1956
Deed

Angela D. Early to Susanna Hall; Lots 6-12 and 21-24 in Block F of Brandywine City which grantor acquired by will of her husband, William B. Early.

GPH #1:600
21 Jan 1919
Will

Testator, William Berry Early; all estate to his wife Angela D. Early, and after her death to their daughter, Josephine Moon Early. Executrix: Angela D. Early.

#101:149
18 Aug 1914
Deed

Georgia Early, widow of Charles S. Early, et al., to William Berry Early; Lots 6-8, 11-12, and 23-24, Block F, Brandywine City, as per Latimer plat 1893.

JWB #37:654
11 Nov 1896
Deed

Charles S. and Georgia Early to William Berry Early; Lots 9-10 and 21-22 in Block 11 as per plat by Robert Bowie; part of real estate of William H. Early which was allotted to Charles S. Early by Equity #1904 (Block 11 in Robert Bowie plat equals Block F in Thomas H. Latimer plat).

- 2 -

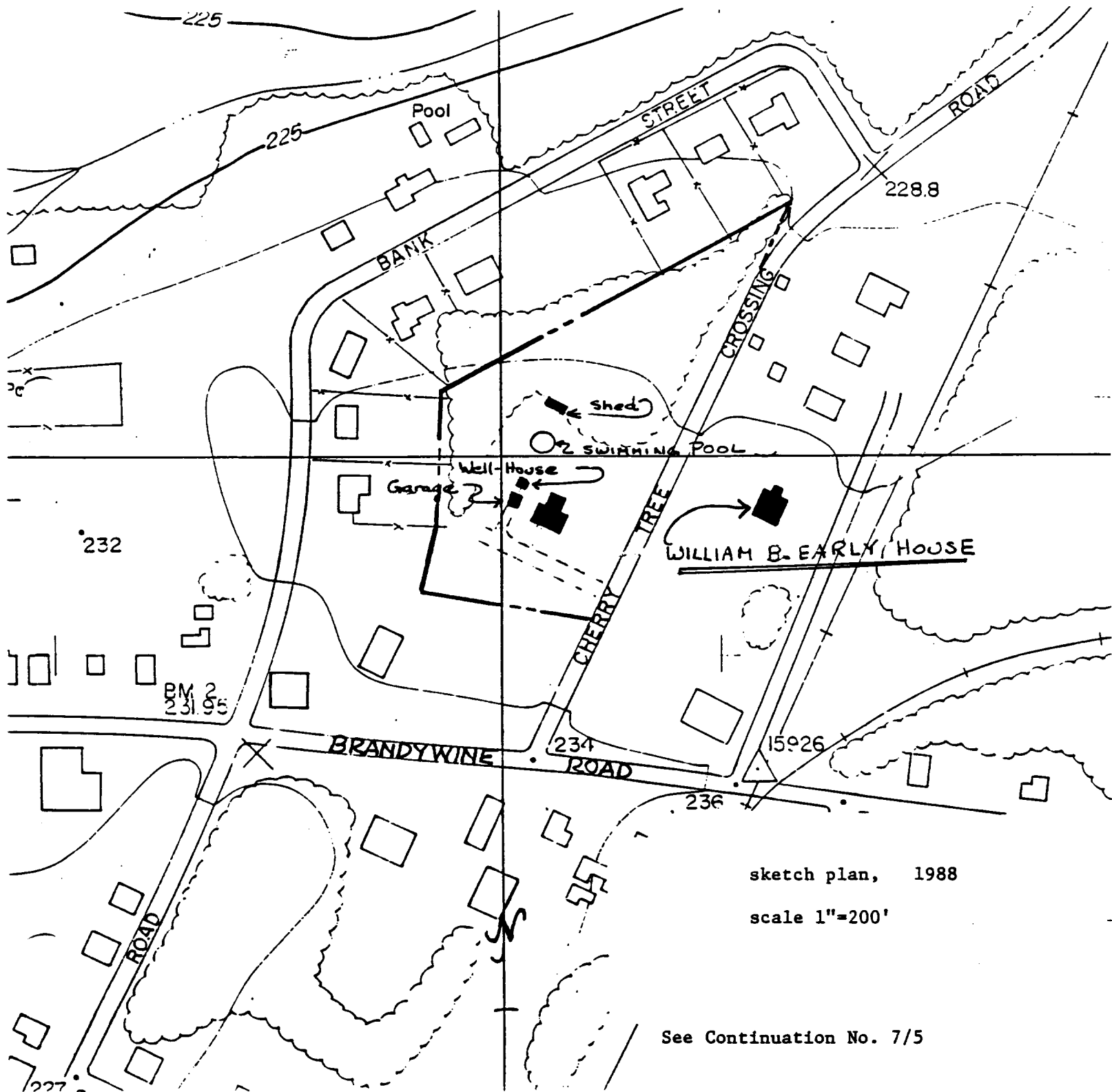
#1904
1893
Equity

Charles S. and Georgia Early vs. Sarah A. M. Early, for purpose of dividing real estate of William H. Early, who died 1890, owned real estate comprising village of Brandywine; Commission appointed to divide real estate among his heirs;

- (a) one part to son, Charles S. Early (including Block F)
- (b) one part to daughter, Margaret Early Bowie
- (c) one part to be divided among four children of deceased son James A. Early.

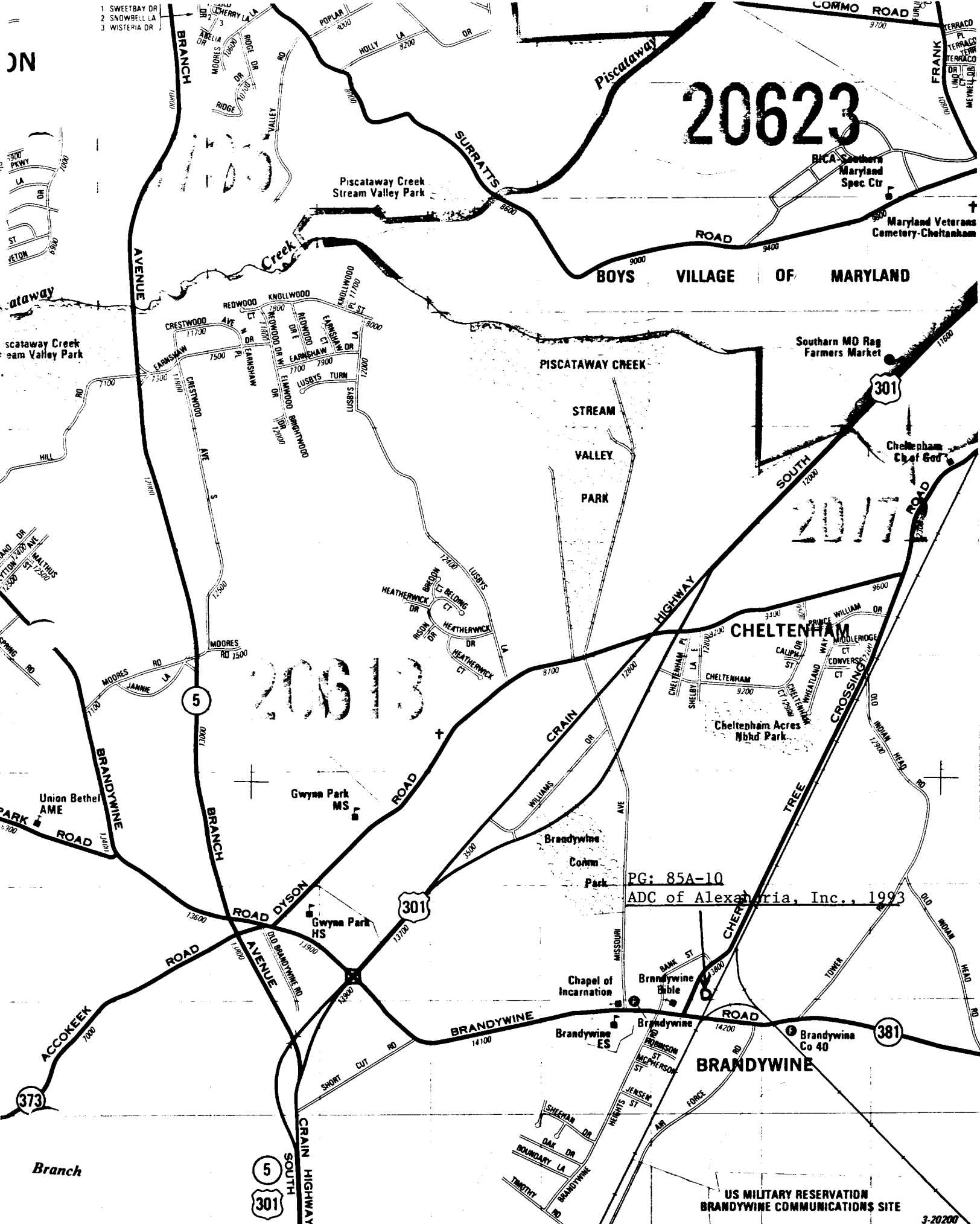
PG: 85A-10
William B. Early House
13904 Cherry Tree Crossing Road
Brandywine, Maryland

Maryland



See Continuation No. 7/5

DN



20623

20613

PG: 85A-10
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

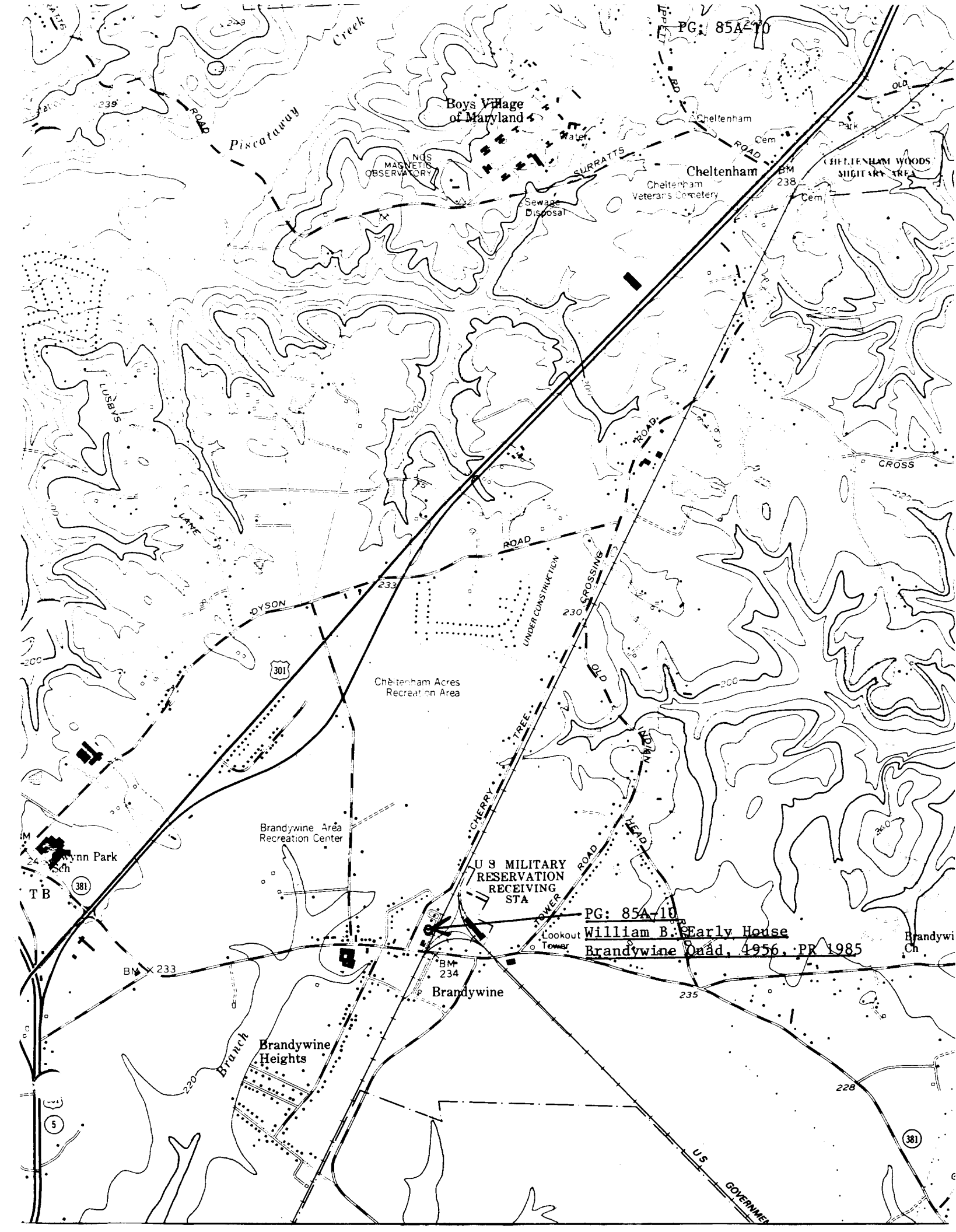
US MILITARY RESERVATION
BRANDYWINE COMMUNICATIONS SITE

76°52'30"

MD GRID 840,000 FT

Joins Map 39

© ADC OF ALEXANDRIA, INC.



PG: 85A-10

Boys Village of Maryland

Cheltenham

NGS MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY

Sewage Disposal

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

CHELTEHAM WOODS MILITARY AREA

Cheltenham Acres Recreation Area

Brandywine Area Recreation Center

U S MILITARY RESERVATION RECEIVING STA

PG: 85A-10

William B. Early House

Brandywine Road, 4956, PR 1985

Brandywine

Brandywine Heights

Brandywine Ch



P.G. #85A-10

William Berry Early House
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #85A-10

William Berry Early House
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #85A-10

William Berry Early House
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #85A-10

William Berry Early House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.